<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED IS</u>:

1. A received document sorting control method for an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit for communications via Internet, and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit, comprising:

previously setting prescribed condition information for judging whether or not a received document is subject to automatic sorting, and for judging a prescribed sorting method in a case that automatic sorting is to be implemented; and

checking contents of transmission identification information transmitted by a sender on the basis of the prescribed condition information, and controlling automatic sorting processing for a document received in a communication, in accordance with the corresponding prescribed sorting method, if the document received in the communication is judged to be subject to the automatic sorting.

2. The received document sorting control method according to claim 1, wherein implementation or non-implementation of automatic sorting, and the prescribed sorting method used in the case that automatic sorting is to be implemented, are set in accordance with a user name, a telephone number, a domain name, and an organization name to which a sender device belongs, as contained in the transmission identification information.

3. The received document sorting method according to claim 1, wherein any one sorting method is set from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or a mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer.

4. The received document sorting control method according to claim 1, wherein in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, it is also set whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient.

16

5. A received document sorting control method for an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit for communications via Internet, and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit, comprising:

previously setting a prescribed sorting method for urgent documents; and

checking contents of transmission identification information transmitted by a sender, and controlling sorting processing for an urgent document in accordance with the prescribed sorting method for urgent documents, if the communication is a communication of high urgency.

6. The received document sorting method according to claim 5, wherein any one sorting method is set from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer.

7. The received document sorting control method according to claim 5, wherein in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, it is also set whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient.

8. A received document sorting control method for an image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit for communications via Internet, and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit, comprising:

previously setting prescribed condition information for judging whether or not a received document is subject to automatic sorting, and for judging a prescribed sorting method if automatic sorting is to be implemented, and also previously setting a prescribed sorting method for urgent documents;

17

checking contents of transmission identification information transmitted by a sender, and controlling sorting processing for an urgent document in accordance with the prescribed sorting method for urgent documents, if the communication is a communication of high urgency; and

checking the contents of transmission identification information transmitted by the sender on the basis of the prescribed condition information, even if the communication is not one of high urgency according to the result of the preceding check, and controlling automatic sorting processing for a document received in the communication, in accordance with the corresponding prescribed sorting method, if the document received in the communication is judged to be subject to automatic sorting.

9. The received document sorting control method according to claim 8, wherein implementation or non-implementation of automatic sorting, and the prescribed sorting method used in the case that automatic sorting is to be implemented, are set in accordance with the user name, telephone number, domain name, and organization name to which the sender device belongs, as contained in the transmission identification information.

10. The received document sorting method according to claim 8, wherein any one sorting method is set from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer.

11. The received document sorting control method according to claim 8, wherein in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, it is also set whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient.

18

12. An image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit for communications via Internet, and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit, comprising:

a setting unit that previously sets prescribed condition information for judging whether or not a received document is subject to automatic sorting, and determines a prescribed sorting method if automatic sorting is to be performed;

a storing unit that stores transmission identification information transmitted by a sender;

a judging unit that checks contents of the transmission identification information stored in the storing unit on the basis of the set prescribed condition information, and judges whether or not a document received in a communication is subject to automatic sorting; and

a received document sorting control unit that controls automatic sorting processing for the document received in the communication, in accordance with the corresponding prescribed sorting method, if it is judged by the judging unit that the document received in the communication is subject to automatic sorting.

13. The image processing device according to claim 12, wherein the setting unit establishes implementation or non-implementation of automatic sorting, and a prescribed sorting method used in the case that automatic sorting is to be implemented, in accordance with a user name, a telephone number, a domain name, and an organization name to which a sender device belongs, as contained in the transmission identification information.

14. The image processing device according to claim 12, wherein the setting unit establishes any one sorting method from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer.

15.   The image processing device according to claim 12, wherein the setting unit, in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, also establishes whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient.

16.   An image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit for communications via Internet, and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit, comprising:

a setting unit that previously sets g a prescribed sorting method for urgent documents,

a storing unit that stores transmission identification information transmitted by a sender;

a judging unit that checks contents of the transmission identification information stored in the storing means and judges whether or not the communication is one of high urgency; and

a received document sorting control unit that controls sorting processing for an urgent document, in accordance with the set prescribed sorting method for urgent documents, if the communication is judged by the judging means to be one of high urgency.

17.   The image processing device according to claim 16, wherein the setting unit establishes any one sorting method from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer.

18.   The image processing device according to claim 16, wherein the setting unit, in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, also establishes whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient.

19.   An image processing device that has a facsimile communication unit for communications via Internet, and receives documents by means of the facsimile communication unit, comprising:

a setting unit that previously sets prescribed condition information for judging whether or not a received document is subject to automatic sorting and determines a prescribed sorting method if automatic sorting is to be performed, and that also previously sets a prescribed sorting method for urgent documents;

a storing unit that stores transmission identification information transmitted by a sender;

a first judging unit that checks contents of the transmission identification information stored in the storing means and judges whether or not the communication is one of high urgency;

a second judging unit that checks the contents of the transmission identification information transmitted by the sender on the basis of the set prescribed condition information, even if the communication is not one of high urgency as a result of the judgement made by the first judgement means, and judges whether or not the document received in the communication is subject to automatic sorting; and

a received document sorting control unit that controls sorting processing for an urgent document, in accordance with the set prescribed sorting method for urgent documents, if the communication is judged by the first judging unit to be one of high urgency, and that controls automatic sorting processing for the document received in the communication, in accordance with the corresponding prescribed sorting method, if it is judged by the second judging unit that the document received in the communication is subject to automatic sorting.

20.   The image processing device according to claim 19, wherein the setting unit establishes implementation or non-implementation of automatic sorting, and the prescribed

21

sorting method used in the case that automatic sorting is to be implemented, in accordance with a user name, a telephone number, a domain name, and an organization name to which a sender device belongs, as contained in the transmission identification information.

21.   The image processing device according to claim 19, wherein the setting unit establishes any one sorting method from among sorting to a previously designated confidential box, sorting to a previously designated output device, such as an output tray or mail box, or the like, or sorting for transfer to a previously designated personal computer.

22.   The image processing device according to claim 19, wherein the setting unit, in addition to setting the prescribed sorting method, also establishes whether or not incoming facsimile communication reporting is to be carried out with respect to a prescribed report recipient.